

Cecil Worthington

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To: Executive Directors of Social Work:  
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Paul Morgan SHSCT  
Kieran Downey WHSCT

20 June 2018

Dear Colleagues

**Re: Issue of Regional Guidance Documents: Working Arrangements for the Welfare and Safeguarding of Child Victims and Potential Child Victims of Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery; and Working Arrangements for the Welfare and Safeguarding of Unaccompanied and Separated Children and Young People**

I am writing to advise on the issue of regional guidance documents and to request that you ensure their dissemination and implementation.

The **Working Arrangements for the Welfare and Safeguarding of Child Victims and Potential Child Victims of Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery, HSCB / PSNI, January 2018** replaces the 2011 version "Working Arrangements for the Welfare and Safeguarding of Child Victims of Human Trafficking" DHSSPS/PSNI.

The revised version has been developed jointly by the HSCB and PSNI in discussion with the Department of Justice and the Department of Health. It includes a brief Explanatory Note of key changes however it is imperative that all relevant managers and staff working with or encountering separated children who are victims or potential victims of human trafficking and modern slavery read the guidance document in full.

I also attach a letter of joint endorsement of this Guidance by the PSNI and HSCB. The implementation date noted in the attached correspondence advises 10 April 2018 however due to



unforeseen delays the implementation date is effective from date of issue of this correspondence.

The second guidance document “**Working Arrangements for the Welfare and Safeguarding of Unaccompanied and Separated Children and Young People**” has been developed by the HSCB in discussion with the Department of Health and is intended to provide information on unaccompanied and separated children and the arrangements in place and to be followed by HSC Trusts to identify and support them and ensure that their needs are met and their welfare is promoted.

In all instances of encountering an unaccompanied or separated child consideration should be given to the possibility that the child / young person may be a victim or potential victim of human trafficking or modern slavery. It is therefore recommended that Trust staff are informed and familiar with the content of both regional documents to assure understanding and knowledge of the processes involved and actions required to effectively safeguard and promote the welfare of all separated children including those children who are victims or potential victims of human trafficking and modern slavery. Implementation date is effective from date of issue of this correspondence.

Yours sincerely



Cecil Worthington  
Acting Director Social Care & Children

cc: Julie Wilson, DoJ  
Paul McConville, DoH  
Sean Holland, DoH  
Ellis McDaniel, DoH  
Martin Quinn, HSCB  
Paula Hillman, PSNI  
Deirdre Coyle, HSCB

